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Warner for a school-mate, and he remembers him as full of delicate promise of the man he came to be. It was here that the mental fog broke up as suddenly as it had settled down. From the academy he went to Union College, his own wishes and his father's being overborne by the collective family wisdom, which was foolishness as Mr. Stillman sees it from the summit of his retrospective years. His college course spoiled him for an artist and he ultimately drifted into journalism, as a result of the facility for writing developed by his literary studies at Union. It seems possible that a purely literary life would have been better suited to his genius than journalism or art. His account of Dr. Nott, the president of Union, is one of many of his brilliant and effective characterizations. These include Ruskin, the Rossettis, Turner of whom he could say *vidi-tantum* without meaning much, and the Cambridge set in America. The chapters on the famous Adirondack Club, which was of Stillman's institution, are of striking interest, and there is an amusing account of Emerson's gun which deterred Longfellow from joining the party. These chapters and that on Lowell invite comparison with Mr. Howells's reminiscences touching Lowell and Emerson and their friends. Norton and Lowell were friends in need to Mr. Stillman, whose pecuniary straits were of frequent recurrence. He was able to receive their bounty without loss of self-respect and one feels that those who have money cannot use it better than for the necessities of a man who has so much that is of greater value, but which is not marketable. "On a Mission for Kossuth" is a chapter which is not flattering to the Hungarian patriot nor to Mr. Stillman's practical judgment. The mission was a wild-goose chase for crown jewels in Hungary. Mr. Stillman's admiration for Ruskin was so great that he named his boy for him, the boy whose sickness and death furnish these volumes with their most pathetic episode. But this admiration made havoc of Mr. Stillman's career as an artist, putting him, following Ruskin, on the scent of nature when he should have been upon the scent of art. It was Mr. Stillman's connection with the London *Times* that gave him pre-eminently his standing as a journalist. Much about this and the *Times* editors is interesting; much also about Mr. Stillman's Roman consulate and that in Crete. But best of all is the self-portraiture, direct and indirect, of a profound idealist, whose life has not been successful measured by our popular standards, but has been immensely so measured by others which bring to life and character a more absolute and final test.

JOHN WHITE CHADWICK.

The Government of Minnesota, its History and Administration. By FRANK L. McVEY, Ph.D., Professor of Economics in the University of Minnesota. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1901. Pp. 236.)

MR. McVEY's book is one of the numerous text-books on state governments which have appeared in recent years. The movement is a good

one, and can hardly fail to increase greatly both knowledge and interest in what was once a much neglected subject. The stories of the Pilgrim fathers and of the Revolutionary War were familiar to everybody, and the main features of the Federal Constitution and government were well understood. The more prosaic events which marked the development of states, however, and the method by which this coequal branch of our federal system was managed, gave little interest except to politicians and newspaper editors. Perhaps the great growth of national sentiment which came from the circumstances of the Civil War may have been an added cause for relegating the states to indifference. States' rights, the common man would say, had nearly destroyed the republic. Therefore he cared little for states and everything for the nation.

But the common man would be largely wrong in this view. It was not states' rights, but a mistaken view as to just what rights the states had, which led to the Civil War. That under the Federal Constitution there are some rights, many rights, which belong exclusively to the states, and with which the federal government may not legally meddle, is incontestable. That secession from the Union is one of those rights, the war has answered in the negative. That the states are sovereign, in the sense that they are in constitutional possession of many powers which commonly mark independent nations, is beyond dispute. That states are sovereign in the sense in which independent nations may be so called, in other words that states are legally entitled to all sovereign powers, is, and from the first was, utterly wrong. But on the other hand that the federal government is a sovereign government in that same unlimited sense, as the Supreme Court seemed inclined to regard it in the case of *Juilliard vs. Greenman*, is also utterly wrong. In short, we need that our notions of the states and their place in our system should be defined with scientific precision. In order to do this we need a better knowledge of what the states are, of what they have done, and of what they are attempting to do now. Such books as the one under consideration are calculated to give just that knowledge.

The first ten chapters of the volume are devoted to an outline of the history of Minnesota. It has features of peculiar interest. The French were the first white men within the limits of the state—the adventurous Daniel Graysolon, *Sieur Du Lhut* (whose name has been preserved in the prosaic English form “Duluth”), and the mendacious Franciscan monk, Father Hennepin, being the best known of the early explorers. Later the fur traders penetrated the forests and lakes and floated on the rivers of Minnesota, their rivalry culminating in the long struggle between the Hudson Bay Company and the American companies. In 1822 Fort Snelling was built and garrisoned, and an enterprising commandant of that post sowed a little wheat, to ascertain if indeed that cereal could be raised so far north. Fort Snelling is connected with the famous *Dred Scott* decision of the Supreme Court. *Dred* was the slave of an army surgeon, and was for some time at the fort with his master, and hence in the territory bought of France north of the Missouri Compromise line.

The settlement of Minnesota shares with that of the other northwestern states in some features of exceptional strength. The northern parts of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, with all of Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota, had a large initial immigration from New England and the old middle states. The foreign born immigrants are largely from Germany and the Scandinavian lands. The result is a stability and force among the people which give a very sterling character to social development. Minnesota has no room for social and political vagaries.

The material wealth of the state has come from the mine, the forest, the field and the mill. Valuable iron mines skirt Lake Superior, great pine forests covered the northern counties, immense wheat fields and the greatest flouring mills in the world have poured out riches without stint.

The major part of Mr. McVey's book is, of course, devoted to a description of the Minnesota government. This presents few unusual features, the main principles being those common to all the states. But Minnesota shows the vigor of its intelligent population in many devices which make for good government. The Australian ballot, the Torrens system of land registration, a corrupt-practices act, these are on the statute books of many states. High license and the so-called patrol limits are the Minnesota method of regulating the liquor traffic. City government in Minnesota is an extreme development of the principle of home rule—going even further than in California, and much further than in New York, with its paltry local veto. In Minnesota cities may frame and amend their own charter, subject only to some general provisions. City councils, under the general law, are composed of aldermen chosen partly from wards and partly at large. In ordinary cases a three-fourth's vote of the council is necessary to overrule the mayor's veto. In some cases, however, a unanimous vote of the council is required for that purpose, and in still other cases the mayor's veto is absolute. The general law also provides for what Mr. McVey calls "Civil service"—in other words, for the merit system in the city civil service. Primary elections are also protected by law in a very drastic way.

Minnesota is a young state. The Sioux massacre of 1863 did not happen so long ago as that of Wyoming, and Gen. Sibley's campaign of punishment is more recent than the Pequot war. The ten thousand lakes of the north star state are quite as beautiful as those of Maine or the Adirondacks, and the falls of Minnehaha (which Longfellow never saw) still splash with the song of Hiawatha. Minnesota blood was poured out freely on the battle fields of the Civil War—few deeds ring more like a trumpet call than the charge of the First Minnesota at Gettysburg—and it was quite as red as that shed behind the breastworks on Breed's Hill. Ramsay and Windom and Cushman Davis are names well known at Washington, and the Minnesota State University with its 3,700 students is one of the most efficient and one of the largest institutions of learning in the country. It is a state worth knowing, and Mr. McVey has sketched it with a true hand. Some day a historian should treat of Minnesota on large lines, as a typical American commonwealth.

HARRY PRATT JUDSON.